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Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.J. Res. 61. Yesterday, September 11, 2001, a cowardly attack of horrific proportions was perpetrated against the United States. Words simply cannot explain the enormity and horror of what was witnessed yesterday. It was a day of barbaric acts in striking contrast, the darkest side perpetuating an act of cowardice and the American resolve and heroism, of individuals rushing to rescue those fallen by this despicable cowardly attack.

At this time our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the innocent Americans who were murdered or injured in the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and on board the airlines, in this unprovoked and unconscionable attack on the United States.

Make no mistake; what happened Tuesday, September 11, was an act of war, perpetrated by cowardly fanatics with no regard for life. It was an attack against our basic freedoms and values. Our response must be just, swift, and severe.

During this time of tragedy, the United States Congress and its members stand strongly united behind our President, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the nation. The United States stands prepared with grim resolve to identify, pursue, and capture, and bring to justice the perpetrators of these attacks. America's resolve is unwavering, with no quarter given to those who have committed these heinous crimes and those who harbor them. There can be no distinction between terrorist and those nations who seek to give them sanctuary and asylum.

Yesterday, the world changed. Yesterday, humanity's innocence was stripped away and violated in a flash of fire and the haze of destruction. The nation will do what generations of Americans have done before us, we will roll up our sleeves and get to work, continue the ongoing rescue efforts, mourn those we have lost, rebuild what has been destroyed, and seek justice for this diabolical attack on our Nation.